Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting ~~of the~~ binding of a β-sheet fibril to RAGE on the surface of a cell of a subject, wherein the cell is located outside the central nervous system of the subject, which comprises ~~contacting the cell with~~ administering to the subject a compound that inhibits binding of the β-sheet fibril to RAGE, so as to inhibit binding of the β-sheet fibril to RAGE on the surface of the cell in the subject.

42-43. (Canceled)

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the β-sheet fibril is selected from the group consisting of amyloid-β peptide, amylin, amyloid A, prion-derived peptide, transthyretin, cystatin C, gelsolin and a peptide capable of forming amyloid.

45. (Canceled)

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the compound is sRAGE or a fragment thereof.

47-54. (Canceled)

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the cell is an endothelial cell, a smooth muscle cell, a somatic cell, a bone marrow cell, a liver cell, an intestinal cell, a germ cell, a myocyte, a mononuclear phagocyte, a tumor cell, a spleen cell or a stem cell.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the compound is a peptide analog of sRAGE.

57. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting ~~of the~~ binding of a β-sheet fibril to RAGE on the surface of a cell of a subject, wherein the cell is located outside the central nervous system of the subject, which comprises administering to the subject an amount of soluble RAGE (sRAGE) effective to inhibit binding of the β-sheet fibril to RAGE.

58. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting ~~of the~~ binding of a β-sheet fibril to RAGE on the surface of a cell of a subject, wherein the cell is located outside the central nervous system of the subject, which comprises administering to the subject an amount of a peptide fragment of sRAGE identical to the V-domain of sRAGE effective to inhibit binding of the β-sheet fibril to RAGE.

59. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the compound comprises a fragment of sRAGE.

60. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the fragment of sRAGE comprises the V-domain of sRAGE.